

Program Notice

FGIS PN-06-04

5-01-06

ETHYLENE DIBROMIDE RESIDUE TESTING FOR GRAIN

1. PURPOSE

This program notice is issued to provide notice that effective July 1, 2006, the Technical Services Division (TSD) will discontinue testing for ethylene dibromide in grain samples. Program Directive 9180.40 "Pesticide Residue Testing for Grain", dated 8-8-05 will be revised to reflect this policy change.

2. BACKGROUND

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of EDB as a grain fumigant in 1984. Subsequent to the ban, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) began offering EDB analysis at TSD in Kansas City, Missouri, as a service to the grain industry. Since 1994, GIPSA has not detected EDB in any of the samples that were officially tested. Today, the cost of maintaining the service exceeds revenue generated from infrequent service requests. Therefore, to improve program efficiencies, GIPSA will discontinue EDB testing service.

Before making the decision to discontinue EDB testing, GIPSA reviewed the Agency's EDB testing data and sought feedback from industry representatives. GIPSA's data indicates that a limited number of customers in a few countries (i.e., Taiwan, South Korea, and Mexico) occasionally request the official EDB testing service. Our industry contacts indicate that their customers in these countries would be satisfied if testing were provided by independent laboratories.

3. LETTERHEAD STATEMENT

To facilitate marketing of U.S. grain, GIPSA can provide, upon request of an applicant for service, the following letterhead statement:

"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned ethylene dibromide (EDB) for use as a grain fumigant in 1984 in the United States. Since 1994, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has performed, at the request of the applicant for service, 1,228 tests for the presence/concentration of EDB in export cargoes of grain. To date, GIPSA has not detected EDB in any of the samples that were officially tested."

4. QUESTIONS

Direct questions concerning GIPSA's termination of its EDB testing service to Steven Tanner at (816) 891-0401.

John Giler, Acting Director
Field Management Division